

Re Box No. V

1 Reference is made to the following publications:

D1: DE 101 48 217 C1 (ROBERT BOSCH GMBH) 24 April 2003

D2: EP-A-0 158 867 (ATLAS FAHRZEUGTECHNIK GMBH) 23 October 1985

2 Independent Claim 1

2.1 Clarity (Article 6 PCT)

In Claim 1 the modification signal (S) is only defined and the manner in which it is used is not specified, in other words firstly the clock signal (fc) is dependent on the modification signal (S) and secondly the conversion of the digital control signal values (Y1, ...) into the analog control signal (Us) is envisaged by taking the modification signal (S) into account.

It is apparent from the description (pages 3 and 4, for example) and the independent Claim 8 that these features are essential for the definition of the invention.

Since the independent Claim 1 does not contain these definitions, it does not fulfill the requirement of Article 6 PCT in conjunction with Rule 6.3 b) PCT that every independent claim must contain all the technical features which are essential to the definition of the invention.

2.2 Novelty

In addition to the above objections, the present application does not fulfill the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT because the subject matter of Claim 1 is not novel within the meaning of Article 33(2) PCT.

Without the description of the use of the modification signal (S) it appears that Claim 1 is limited to a circuit arrangement for the generation of a control signal for a fuel injector, in which a digital control signal value is read from a memory unit using a counter signal. This control signal value is then converted into an analog control signal in order to control the injectors.

Such a measure appears to be trivial and is disclosed for example in the documents D1 (the control reference values are achieved on a digital computer) or D2 (digital address counters and injection counters).

3 Independent Claim 8

The subject matter of Claim 8 (method) appears to be novel and inventive. The cited publications do not disclose the use of a modification signal in order to modify the clock signal and to take into account the conversion of the digital control signal values into the analog control signal.

It appears that a new Claim 1, which corresponds to Claim 8, would overcome the foregoing objections.